

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 221050Z JAN 76

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AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 0718

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES C.)

SUBJECT: WRAP-UP ON VISIT ON CODEL DIGGS

REF: ISLAMABAD 0251, ISLAMABAD 0518

1. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS AND STAFF ADVISOR CHALLENGER HAD A BUSY AND, WE THINK, SUCCESSFUL THREE DAY VISIT IN THE ISLAMABAD AREA. THEIR SCHEDULE FOLLOWED FAIRLY CLOSELY THE ONE GIVEN IN THE FIRST REFTEL.

2. MEETINGS: CODEL MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE BUCHA, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY AFTAB AHMED KHAN. THE CONVERSATION IN THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS OUTLINED IN SECOND REFTEL. WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, THE FOCUS WAS PRIMARILY ON PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. IN THE MEETINGS WITH BUCHA AND AFTAB AHMED KHAN, THE EMPHASIS WAS ON PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS. CODEL ALSO HAD A COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING AT THE EMBASSY, IN WHICH PRIMARY ATTENTION WAS DEVOTED TO PAKISTAN'S POLITICS, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC SITUATION.

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3. FIELD TRIPS: THE CODEL SPENT MUCH OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 ON A VISIT TO TARBELA DAM. THE AID DEPUTY DIRECTOR BRIEFED CODEL IN THE CAR ON THE AID PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN. THE TARBELA GENERAL MANAGER HOSTED A LUNCH IN THE CODEL'S HONOR, AND THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY AN EXTENSIVE TOUR OF THE DAM, WITH ONE OF THE ENGINEERS CONNECTED WITH THE TARBELA PROJECT CONDUCTING THE BRIEFING. FOLLOWING THE TARBELA TRIP, CODEL MADE A BRIEF VISIT TO THE VILLAGE KAMRAN KALAN, WHERE THE VILLAGE LEADER AND A HOST OF CHILDREN TURNED OUT TO GREET THE CODEL. (CONGRESSMAN DIGGS REMARKED, "I THINK WE HAVE CARRIED THIS PRECINCT PRETTY WELL.") IN THE VILLAGE CODEL SAW AN OIL PRESS IN OPERATION, EXTRACTING MUSTARD SEED OIL, AND A VILLAGE WEAVING SHOP. ABOUT FIVE SMALL BOYS THEN SHOWED HIM HOW A PERSIAN WHEEL OPERATES.

4. ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, MOST OF THE DAY WAS SPENT IN LYALLPUR. DURING THE FLIGHT TO LYALLPUR BY EMBASSY AIRCRAFT, AID DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR AGRICULTURAL POLICY BRIEFED CODEL ON PAKISTAN'S AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS, AND CODEL WAS ABLE TO SEE SOME OF PAKISTAN'S BEST AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AS WELL AS LANDS AFFECTED BY WATERLOGGING AND SALINITY FROM THE AIR. IN LYALLPUR, CODEL VISITED PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND WAS GIVEN A DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE CONSUMPTIVE USE OF IRRIGATION WATER AND WHEAT EXPERIMENTS BEING CARRIED OUT THERE. CODEL THEN WENT TO LYALLPUR AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY FOR A TALK WITH UNIVERSITY'S NEW VICE CHANCELLOR AMIR MOHAMMAD KHAN, WHO DESCRIBED THE UNIVERSITY'S WORK AND HIS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR INVOLVING THE UNIVERSITY MORE INTIMATELY IN PAKISTAN'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A LUNCHEON AT THE CIRCUIT HOUSE ATTENDED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, ALL THE UNIVERSITY DEANS, THE HEAD OF THE NUCLEAR INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND BIOLOGY, AND OFFICIALS OF THE PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE. ON THE WAY BACK TO THE AIRPORT, THE CODEL HAD TIME FOR A BRIEF VISIT TO THE NUCLEAR INSTITUTE

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FOR AGRICULTURE AND BIOLOGY, WHERE THE DIRECTOR EXPLAINED SOME OF THE WORK IN PROGRESS THERE.

5. SOCIAL: CODEL WAS WELL ENTERTAINED BY BOTH AMERICAN AND PAKISTANI OFFICIALS. GUESTS AT DINNERS BY AID DIRECTOR WHEELER AND THE AMBASSADOR IN ISLAMABAD INCLUDED SOME OF THE TOP OFFICIALS IN THE FIELD OF DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND DISASTER RELIEF. GOP

DINNER ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 WAS HOSTED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY AND INCLUDED, IN ADDITION TO SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS, INFORMATION SECRETARY NASEEM AHMED AND PLANNING SECRETARY V. A. JAFAREY. ALSO PRESENT WERE RECENTLY ARRIVED BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA AMBASSADORS.

6. PRESS: CODEL WAS GIVEN GOOD PRESS COVERAGE. PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 17 WAS ATTENDED BY A DOZEN PRESS CONTACTS INVITED BY USIS. QUESTIONING WAS LIVELY. THE MAIN TOPICS COVERED WERE ANGOLA, ON WHICH CONGRESSMAN REPEATED HIS VIEW THAT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM WAS SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT, AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERY ABOUT THE IMPACT ON REGIONAL BALANCE OF POWER OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, CONGRESSMAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT WHILE ANY NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION WAS A CAUSE FOR CONCERN, NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN GREAT POWERS WAS REALLY SECONDARY. THE GREAT POWERS ALREADY HAD VAST NUCLEAR ARSENALS AND "WOULD NOT PERMIT THE SECOND TEAM TO PLAY WITH MATCHES."

7. GENERAL: CABLE TRAFFIC INFORMING US OF CODEL'S VISIT HAD INDICATED THAT CODEL WAS CHIEFLY INTERESTED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CODEL FOUND PROGRAM IN ISLAMABAD USEFUL IN THESE AREAS. SOME OF THE QUESTIONS CODEL ASKED ABOUT THE AID PROGRAM SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE COMPARISONS BETWEEN AID'S INVESTMENT HERE AND IN THE SAHEL. CODEL WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF MAJOR LAND RECLAMATION EFFORTS SUCH AS SCARP, AND WATER MANAGEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, AND AT ONE POINT DR. CHALLENGER ASKED WHETHER AID WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE COMPARABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITMENTS TO A SIMILAR PROGRAM IN THE SAHEL. IN THE FIELD OF POPULATION, THE CONGRESSMAN DISPLAYED INCREASING INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT AS HE BECAME IMPRESSED WITH THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEMS AND THE SIZE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PROGRAM KEEP TO ITS VOLUNTARY APPROACH IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY IT MIGHT BE TURNED IN SUCH A WAY THAT MORE POWERFUL GROUPS COULD USE IT AGAINST LESS POWERFUL GROUPS.

8. ANOTHER IMPRESSION WAS THAT CODEL WAS VERY INTERESTED IN FOREIGN POLICY ASPECTS OF PAKISTAN. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS TOPIC WAS ADEQUATELY COVERED DURING VISIT TO ISLAMABAD, PARTICULARLY IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY AND PRIME MINISTER. INFO

ADDRESSES MAY WISH TO BEAR THIS IN MIND IN PUTTING
FINISHING TOUCHES ON CODEL'S SCHEDULE.
BYROADE

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